# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Published by the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council, Newark, New Jersey
August 1, 1957 836 South 12 Street

# SECOND ANNUAL "GOOD NEIGHBOR" CONFERENCE CHARTS FUTURE COURSE

## A DREAM COME TRUE - ALMOST!

It seemed a hopeless task, a dream. We were green but hopeful, and we had the faith to go ahead. There were meetings, meetings, and more meetings. There were petitions calling for a recreational center as against a supermarket with all its traffic hazards. It was a little over one year ago.

Who gets the petitions? City Council? Mayor? Zoning Board? Yes, we were green.

Our big major victory? We defeated the supermarket's appeal for a zoning variance. More meetings and more plans. Block branches grew and new ones came into being. Interest in Clinton Hill's future was heightened. Along with the growing interest was the increase in numbers and influence of the Council.

Oh! those many representations to the Board of Education. Oh! those many letters, delegations, 'phone calls. Will it ever be a reality? So much is needed. Off-street parking. Play areas. More lighting. Better sanitation. Tighter zoning enforcement.

We reach an impasse. We seem to sag. But the faith of many people - all kinds of people - our neighbors - holds firm. We work all the harder.

Then comes a shot in the arm! Clinton Hill to be the pilot area in a new Government plan for urban rehabilitation, the now famous FHA Section 220 program. Newark, to reap the benefits of 220, must submit a detailed plan for improving the facilities in our area. The plan unfolds. It sounds much like OUR plan! This must be a dream.

If it is a dream it is not quite over. More final steps. More meetings. Maps. Diagrams. Statistics. Final steps is August 21, 1957, a meeting of the City Council. Will they vote the bond issue for the purchase of the Jewish Orphanage plot? Will they approve the City's application for 220 certification? We should be there to make sure they do.

We're still green. So much yet to be done - plan for the whole of Clinton Hill, not just 14 blocks. We're a little bigger and have more faith. Faith in the future of Clinton Hill, and above all, faith in each other.

### MASTER PLAN FOR WHOLE AREA PUSHED ROUNDTABLES OFFER VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS

As if determined to prove that "Good Neighbors Make Better Neighborhoods," 280 persons signed in and spoke out at the CHNC 2nd annual conference, held at South Side High School on May 19.

After group singing and cookies and punch had helped to set a friendly, informal atmosphere, the conferees heard progress reports from city officials and neighbors, before voicing their problems in round-the-table discussion groups. No one spoke for too long, and evrything moved at a good clip under the genial direction of Dr. John P. Milligan, Director, N.J. State Division Against Discrimination, the conference's chairman.

Keynoter was Robert C. Hoover, city planning officer, who said that a survey of land uses was needed before a "Master Plan" for all of Clinton Hill could be drawn up. Such a plan would permit wiser, healthier use of land and space, Hoover added, would cut down overcrowding and give people "a chance to breathe."

Final approval from the Federal Government should soon be forthcoming, said Agnes Coleman, discussing the City's application for certification of a 14-block area in Clinton Hill, between Avon and Hawthorne Avenues above Bergen Street, as a "pilot area" under Section 220 of the Federal Housing Act. Miss Coleman, chairman, Commission on Neighborhood Conservation and Rehabilitation, stressed that the Clinton Hill-type plan, if successful, would be applied to other parts of Newark as well.

Some of the efforts to clean up and expand facilities were related to the conference by the following CHNC members:

Olga M. Russell..... Zoning
Lee Bailey..... Farley Avenue
George Davis..... Seymour Avenue
Patricia Lacey..... Girard Place
Leona Newman..... Ridgewood Avenue
The Rev. Stan Hallett...Block orgz'n
Tim O'Brien..... Recreation

Following 40 minutes of roundtable discussion, summaries were sent by the recorders and leaders at each table to Dr. Milligan, who ably outline the major areas of interest. These included:

Recreation: Fulfill City's plan to convert the large tract at 534 Clinton Avenue into a park and recreation center, as suggested over a year ago at the 1st

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# The Question Box

One of the basic principles of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council is its non-partisanship. Of the several Council members who were sent, at random, the question below, the following answered:

QUESTION: What does "non-partisan" mean to you?

ANSWERS: Mrs. Mary Robinson, 260 Peshine Avenue. "As far as the Council is concerned, we are all working together regardless of party for the purpose of improving our neighborhood. Better living conditions for all is our aim."

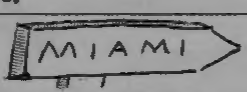
Mrs. Charles Landever, 194 Avon Avenue. "Hope. It also means we can accomplish anything we set out to do."

## WELL DONE!

Over 50 letters of congratulations have been mailed to homeowners who are sprucing up their dwellings, as a result of approval to a suggestion made by the Rev. Stanley J. Hallett, given at the June meeting of the officers of the CHNC. Wherever housepainting is being done, hedges are neatly clipped, stairs rebuilt, or other evidence of pride in house and neighborhood is evident, a letter will be sent out.

We of the Council have often expressed faith both in our neighborhood and our neighbors. It is heartening to know that many Clinton Hillers, not yet Council members, show the same faith.

Besides its tone of commendation, the letter suggests further contact with the Council by listing the officers. Thus two forces working for the common good can be united.




The CYO Golden Knights of Blessed Sacrament parish will entrain August 23 for Miami, Florida, to compete for the VFW national title in drum and bugle corps competition.

Currently holders of the American Legion title since 1954, the Knights will seek to wrest the VFW title from St. Vincent's Cadets, Bayonne, N.J. It was financially impossible for the Knights to make last year's VFW contest in Texas. But with the VFW in Miami and the Legion Convention in Atlantic City this year, the Knights will be in both tests, carrying high the banners of Clinton Hill's national champs. Good luck!

## FARLEY AVENUE MEETS

The June meeting of the Farley Avenue branch of the CHNC was also host to the regular Executive Board meeting. John Hughes was chairman, and Lee Bailey served as recorder and as hostess.

The Board approved a letter to the Board of Education suggesting that all possible steps be taken to prevent overcrowding at Weequahic High School, and that the 9th grades be housed at the new Clinton Pl. Junior High. If necessary, it was suggested, 7th graders might remain at the least crowded elementary school to permit the Junior High to handle the load. At the meeting, anti-noise and health &sanitation committees were set up.

## RECOGNITION

Active interest in better group relations, and membership in a neighborhood council now noted for its promotion of good will, has resulted in signal recognition to several CHNC members.

Timothy O'Brien, 508 Avon Avenue, spiritual advisor to the CYO, Blessed Sacrament parish, and popular member of the Executive Board of the CHNC, was sworn in as a member of the 15-man Mayor's Commission on Group Relations.

Larrie West Stalks, 43 Shanley Avenue, a member of the Shanley Avenue Civic Ass'n, CHNC affiliate, was awarded a scholarship to the Advanced Workshop in Group Relations at Rutgers University.

Julia Lippman, formerly a resident of Seymour Avenue, also was awarded a scholarship by the Mayor's Commission to the Rutger's Workshop.

Stan Winters, 26 Shanley Avenue, CHNC chairman, will attend the summer Rutgers Workshop through a grant from the Greater Newark Division, American Jewish Congress.

To all: congratulations!

NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

Yes, the Neighborhood News wants news. Send in personal items about your block's doings, personal achievements, nice things that happen to Clinton Hillers - to your block chairman or institutional delegate. We'll be happy to pass the good word on.

ITEMS: Sarah Hallett and Jane Aronowitz expecting, or hadn't anyone noticed? Harold Jones of Farley Avenue up and around again, we're glad to see...The Rev. Carl Uehling, St. John's Lutheran Church, made the local press while participating in a debate in New Hampshire last month... Stan Winters, speaking before the Bd. of Ed. last June, asked them to help maintain "a balanced homogeneity" in the enrollment of the Clinton Pl. J.H.S...Next Executive Board meets August 1st, 8:15 pm, delegates - please make a note... Letter from CHNC sent to Mayor Carlin supporting increased widows pension to Mrs. Woomer of Avon Avenue... Sears Roebuck, new Council member, gave 350 pamphlets put out by its Urban Renewal Division. Get it thru your block branch or call one of the officers... Until signs go up listing the hours of parking, no one has to pay into Clinton Avenue's new meters...

# BLOCK DOINGS

SEYMOUR AVENUE BRANCH

The cleanup campaign on Seymour Avenue sparked by the block branch and the Jr. Chamber of Commerce, met with great success. We are especially proud of our efforts in bring improvements to one house where many violations were seen.

The neighborly feeling in our branch is growing, thanks to everyone's help.

On Sunday, August 11, our branch will hold a family picnic, with cook out and fun for the children. All Council members who wish to join in may get details from George Davis, BI 8-6275, or Lillian Kaye, BI 8-4186.

The next branch meeting will be on September 26 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Smith, 147 Seymour. All resident of the block, tenants and home owners, are welcome to join in.

E.S.

PESHINE AVENUE BRANCH

The Peshine Avenue Branch is one of the most recent to be formed. It has already held two good meetings and cleared the decks for action. The leadership team elected at the first meeting is:

Mary Robinson, chairman; Stan Aronowitz, vice-chairman; J.W. Brown, financial sec'y; Marion Frederick, recorder.

A committee is meeting with Capt. Grady, 5th Precinct, to discuss speeding cars on W. Bigelow St. Also, a vacant lot next to the station house would be ideal for a play area.

A reply from Public Works Director Andress, about our complaint of low pressure in hydrants, says that this will be attended to as soon as an area-wide survey of such conditions is completed. A local butcher who was dumping meat scraps into the sewer has kindly ended that lovely practice. Meanwhile, we'll keep plugging for a street light at Peshine and West Bigelow...

S.A.

SOUTH 17th STREET

An initial meeting to form a block branch of the Council was held at Mrs. Von Busch's home on July 8. Nineteen persons attended. A leadership team of Mrs. Von Busch and Mrs. Burns was elected. Pressing problems are: Bigger boys creating disturbances near Madison Avenue... Loud noises from late leavers at the movie house...More frequent street sweeping by mechanical equipment; "bee-bee" shots into nearby windows. A letter from Benj. A. Collier, chairman, Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, to Real Estate Board, was read. He asked for a conference between the Board, the Commission, and CHNC residents on S. 17 Street, to prevent future unethical sales tactics by real estate agents as recently practised.

Next meeting in September.

From a staff correspondent.

2nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE (continued)

CHNC conference... Need a municipal pool in Clinton Hill... Convert empty lots, now used a s dumps, into "tot lot" play areas.

Policing and Traffic: End overnight parking of commercial vehicles on residential streets... Meters badly needed along Clinton A venue... Traffic lights at several narrow, dangerous intersections not now covered (Peshine and Bigelow)... Prompt pruning of trees which shade off night street lights... Homeowners to leave on porch lights for a few hours each night until more street lights are provided...

Health and Sanitation: Need for heavy trash baskets on commercial corners, like downtown areas... Inform homeowners of proper means of storing and disposing of garbage... More block cleanups, urge hedges trimmed, lawns mowed... Wide publicity of anti-noise ordinances, enforce laws against horn blowing.

Education: Expand library facilities to areas where children have none at present, perhaps another branch in Clinton Hill... Fuller use of public schools for community activities... Support Dr. Kennelly's suggestion for a new elementary school to replace outmoded one on Bergen Street, to tie in with 220 project.

Youth: Survey and sponsor activities of an intergroup nature among young people.

Zoning: Strict enforcement of zoning statutes, add more inspectors to staff... Begin enforcing law where overcrowding is evident... With Newark Real Estate Board, discourage unethical practices by agents in sales of homes - also, misrepresentation.

A pleasant interlude was furnished by the South Side Madrigal Singers, who exercised their usual charm over the audience. Group singing was enthusiastically led by Dorothy Schneider, teacher at South Side H.S. Volunteers from the P.T.A. were gracious hostesses.

98 persons paid Council dues. An attractive display of the materials put out by the Division Against Discrimination was supervised by Marion Courtney and Jack Smith, DAD staff members.

Then, buoyed in the knowledge that good will and community spirit were still on the upgrade, and confident that the ship was still on an even keel, everyone went home.

UNAUTHORIZED PAMPHLETS

The CHNC officers wish to go on record as disclaiming any responsibility for any leaflets or materials circulated at any Council function, which do not bear the name Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council on them. No prior authorization was given for any distributions other than Council literature, at the South Side H.S. conference.

Build a Block Branch!
Be a Good Neighbor!

AN OPEN LETTER TO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS ON SOUTH 17th STREET

July 10, 1957

We have been going from house to house trying to prevent our neighbors from sacrificing their homes, many with beautiful gardens and shrubbery. Our predecessors worked years to make our block so pleasant and convenient to live on.

Houses on our block were never hard to sell at reasonable prices, having so many conveniences. We have our public school at the corner and the new junior high school nearby. Our Catholic and Jewish parochial schools are within walking distance. There are churches of several denominations. All these cost thousands of dollars and years of hard work to build and maintain.

Then, too, we have the supermarkets and stores nearby. A modern air-conditioned movie is at the end of our block. Think of the money paid in taxes for street paving, lighting, and maintenance of our beautiful block. We know that we live on one of the best blocks in Clinton Hill. Please think it over before you decide to sell.

Don't listen to smooth talking real estate agents with their scare tactics. You may think you are offered a good price, but when you look around and hear the prices, you'll realize that the offer wasn't so good after all. Most homes on our block are well built and well kept, since the owners generally live in them.

Most new houses are small, many without cellars or attics. Think of the many uses for recreation, laundry, workshop, and storage space they provide. When this section of Clinton Hill was built about fifty years ago, our block was restricted to one and two family dwellings. Home building ceased when our boys were called to war. Many of them married girls from overseas and brought them home to live. Rooms were scarce and many homeowners made their attics into modern quarters for the returning doughboys.

At least three families live on our block more than fifty years, some forty-five, some thirty-five, and many twenty-five years and over. My mother bought our house forty years ago. Two years ago when she died I inherited it. My children suggested selling our house to buy a small, modern home in a new development. But after thinking of the years spent in my home I dreaded leaving it and my neighbors on our well kept block. No matter how high a price offered, nothing could soothe that homesick feeling for my home, with memories so dear to my heart. Like a marriage pact, you and your home are joined together "till death do you part."

Just because a few Negro families bought homes and moved into our block is no reason for panic. These Negro people, our new neighbors, are respectable and can afford to live in a middle class neighborhood like ours. Let us accept our new neighbors, like we have all others in the past, and learn to live together. These stories of declining real estate values have been spread by scheming real estate agents for the very purpose of pressuring people to sell their homes. But the facts in the matter are just the opposite.

Since we are all God's children, let us make it and keep it a pleasant and friendly interracial neighborhood.

Mrs. Anne M. Burns, 882 South 17 Street

ASSOCIATED COMMUNITY COUNCILS

With civic-minded, non-partisan community councils developing in all areas of Newark, the Associated Community Councils, their joint coordinating body, now numbers about ten. CHNC is, of course, a member. At meetings of the Associated Councils, the delegates from each member council bring in the problems and suggestions of individual members and affiliated organizations. Each member council operate in a geographically delimited section of Newark, like Vailsburg, Roseville, Clinton Hill, Weequahic, and so on. Last spring the Associated Community Councils was admitted as a member affiliate of the Council of Social Agencies, thus greatly increasirreasing the resources at the disposal of the neighborhood groups.

If undelivered return to
CLINTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
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